

[7 December, 2006]

RAJYA SABHA

| 1 | 2 | 3 |
|-----|--------------------|--------|
| | Lakshdweep | 10 |
| | Mahe (Pondicherry) | 0 |
| 13. | Madhya Pradesh | 7471 |
| 14. | Maharashtra | 16125 |
| | Goa | 215 |
| 15. | North East | |
| | Arunachal Pradesh | 303 |
| | Manipur | 644 |
| | Meghalaya | 299 |
| | Mizoram | 405 |
| | Nagaland | 299 |
| | Tripura | 659 |
| 16. | Orissa | 7572 |
| 17. | Punjab | 3418 |
| | Chandigarh | 8 |
| 18. | Rajasthan | 9679 |
| 19. | Tamil Nadu | 10424 |
| | Pondicherry | 59 |
| 20. | Uttaranchal | 2496 |
| 21. | Uttar Pradesh | 15778 |
| 22. | West Bengal | 7639 |
| | A&N Islands | 89 |
| | Sikkim | 197 |
| | TOTAL: | 141582 |

New FDI norms by DoT

1667. SHRI VIJAY J. DARDA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Department of Telecommunications has prepared new Foreign Direct Investment norms which proposed to give a go ahead to Indian companies for appointing foreign national as chief executive officers and remove remote access restriction which was a major cause of concern for the BPO industry and foreign companies operating in India;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) by when the proposal is likely to be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) and (b) The Government notified Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) policy for enhancement of FDI ceiling from 49% to 74% in the telecom sector *vide* Press Note No. 5 (2005 Series) dated 3rd November, 2005. The Government has received a number of representations from stakeholders on various aspects of the said policy such as remote access, transfer of accounting, appointment of resident Indian citizens at key positions of Management etc. in view of the above, the Government is reviewing various conditions in the said Press Note to enable a sustainable growth in telecom sector and also the IT sector which is dependent on telecom.

(c) Revision in the policy for FDI in the telecom sector, if any, is likely to be announced on or before 2nd January, 2007.

Suspension of cellular operations during exams and polls

1668. SHRI B.K. HARIPRASAD: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the reported instances of some district authorities ordering cellular service providers in some States to suspend operations during specified hours of the day to check malpractices during exams and polls, have come to the notice of Government;

(b) whether such orders for suspension of cellular services are issued by the Centre only if national security and internal peace is at stake; and

(c) whether the Department of Telecommunications would issue proper guidelines to all cellular service providers in this regard to ensure that local/district authorities do not exceed their brief in denying the fundamental rights of the citizens for free and unhindered communication?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) Department of Telecommunications has written to respective State Government for suitably advising their concerned officers for not